

## A STUDY ON THE ABILITY OF THE SECOND YEAR STUDENTS OF SMA YLPI PERHENTIAN MARPOYAN PEKANBARU IN COMPLETING SENTENCES WITH CORRECT VERB FORMS

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**Abstract:** *learning English cannot be separated from learning grammar. In grammar the students learn about many things, such as sentence patterns and the combination of words and phrases. Most students faced difficulty in applying correct grammar. This study aimed to find out the students ability in selecting correct verb forms. This research was a descriptive research. This study showed that the level of students ability was at mediocre level. It was at 50.10. It also showed that the highest score obtained by the students was 75. Meanwhile, the lowest score was 32.5. The average score The error commonly occurred in selecting correct “infinitive” to complete the sentences.*

**Keywords:** *Study, Students’ ability, verb forms,*

### INTRODUCTION

Grammar is one of important aspects in learning English. Mastering grammar is compulsory when the learners are willing to produce a good English.

Learning grammar is not easy for some learners, especially students. One of the weakness which may occur is their lack of ability in selecting correct verb form to complete sentences.

In senior high school, grammar is not taught independently, but the teachers explain it while they explain the other

skills such as speaking, listening, writing, and reading.

In fact, many students still use grammar incorrectly in writing. It seems that they still have problems in applying rules of structure they have learned while they are speaking or writing. It is also necessary for the students to know about kinds of verbs writing correct sentences.

Furthermore, The correctness in selecting verb forms is necessary in order to write a good writing. The common errors in selecting correct verb forms should be minimized to give correct interpretation to readers.

I this research the students were asked to complete some sentences by using correct verb forms, such as gerund, to infinitive and present participle.

Based on the previous explanation, the writer was interested in conducting a study on the ability of second year students of SMA YLPI perhentian marpoyan Pekanbaru in completing sentences with correct verb forms.

## REVIEW OF LITERATURE

### Verb Forms

There were some verb forms tested in this study. They were: Infinitive, gerund and present progressive Form.

#### Infinitive

Infinitive is the basic form of a verb that usually follows 'to'. This verb form can be used as subjects, objects, or objects of prepositions. Gerund follows some main verbs. There are some main verbs followed by to infinitive. They are ask, decide, expect, etc.

Example: we expect to finish before the deadline.

#### Gerund

According to Murphy (1998: 125), gerund is a word ending with 'ing' and has the force of a noun and verb. It is also known as verbal noun. Furthermore, Summers (2005; 673).

Gerund is a noun in the form of the present participle of a verb, for example 'shopping' in the sentence 'I like shopping'.

Furthermore, there are some verbs followed by gerund. Such as: enjoy, finish, *admit*, *consider*, *regret*, etc.

Example: John regrets taking that extra money

#### Present progressive forms

The progressive forms are used to refer to a situation or an activity that is continuing or in progress during a particular time and the progressive form is one of the tenses.

The present participle is a form of verb that is added by -ing form. The present participle is very important to learn because it has crucial functions. Murphy (1998: 121) states that the present participle is formed with 'ing' form of the verb to indicate an action going on, incomplete or imperfect.

Example: They are studying for their exam

## METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

This is a descriptive research that tries to identify students' ability in completing sentences with correct verb forms. **Gay (1990:10)** says that

descriptive research involves collecting data to test hypothesis or to answer questions concerning the status of the study.

The subject of this research is the second year students of SMA YLPI Perhentian Marpoyan Pekanbaru. The objective of this research is to investigate the students' ability in completing sentences with correct Verb forms.

Because the population is not really big and homogenous, it is necessary to limit the sample. According to Gay (1987:114) if the population is more than 100, the minimum sample taken is 15 % from the population. If the population is less than 100, the sample that can be taken is 50 %. So, the writer takes 50 % from the population. The number of the sample is  $76 \times 50\% = 38$ . So, the writer takes 38 students as samples.

The objective tests were used as the instrument to collect the data. The test consists of 40 items. The students were required to answer the test correctly using the verb in the parentheses. The test items were adapted from several books for senior high school students.

No	Verb forms	Number of Test Item	Item
1	Gerund	1,4,5,7,11,13,14,15,18,19,20,23,25,30,31,	15
2	To infinitive	3,8,10,12,16,21,24,27,28,33,34,36,37,38,40.	15
3	Present progressive	2,6,9,17,22,26,29,32,35,39	10
Total			40

The students' score in answering the test was analyzed by using the following formula:

$$M = \frac{X}{N} \times 100\%$$

M = Individual score

X = The number of correct answer

N= Number of the items

(Wayan and Sumartana, 1986)

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Result of the Study

In order to find out the individual score of the students, the writer divided the number of the correct answers with the number of items and then multiplied it to one hundred (100). The description of the students' scores can be seen in table

**Table 1 The Students' Scores and Their Classification**

Student	CA	Score	L A
1	30	75	Good
2	29	72.5	Good
3	28	70	Good
4	28	70	Good
5	27	67.5	Good
6	24	60	Mediocre
7	24	60	Mediocre
8	23	57.5	Mediocre
9	23	57.5	Mediocre
10	22	55	Mediocre
11	22	55	Mediocre
12	21	52.5	Mediocre
13	21	52.5	Mediocre
14	21	52.5	Mediocre
15	21	52.5	Mediocre
16	20	50	Mediocre
17	20	50	Mediocre
18	20	50	Mediocre
19	20	50	Mediocre
20	20	50	Mediocre
21	20	50	Mediocre
22	20	50	Mediocre
23	20	50	Mediocre
24	19	47.5	Mediocre
25	19	47.5	Mediocre
26	18	45	Mediocre

27	18	45	Mediocre
28	18	45	Mediocre
29	18	45	Mediocre
30	17	42.5	Mediocre
31	17	42.5	Mediocre
32	16	40	Poor
33	16	40	Poor
34	15	37.5	Poor
35	15	37.5	Poor
36	15	37.5	Poor
37	15	37.5	Poor
38	13	32.5	Poor
Mean Score	773/38 = 20	1902.5/38 = 50.1	Level= Mediocre

Note:

CA= correct Answer

L A= Level of Ability

G= Good

M = Mediocre

P = Poor

The table above shows that the mean score of the second year students of SMA YLPI Perhentian Marpoyan Pekanbaru in completing sentences with correct verb forms is 50.10. From that score, it can be concluded that the students' ability is at the *mediocre* level. The table also

shows that the highest score obtained by the students is 75. Meanwhile, the lowest score is 32.5.

Based on the result of the test, the ability of the second year students of SMA YLPI Perhentian Marpoyan Pekanbaru in completing sentences with correct verb forms can be classified into some categories as presented:

Table 2  
The Students' Scores Classification

No	Score	frequency	Percentage (%)	Classification
1	81-100	0	0	Excellent
2	61-80	5	13	Good
3	41-60	26	68.5	Mediocre
4	21-40	7	18.5	Poor
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor

Table 2 shows that from 38 students, none of the students is at the *excellent* and *very poor* level. There are 7 students (18.5%) at *poor level*, 26 students (68.5%) are at *mediocre level*, 5 students (13%) are at *good level*.

Table 3. The Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with Gerund.

Student	CA	Score	LA
1	11	73	G
2	11	73	G
3	7	47	M
4	11	73	G

5	9	60	M
6	10	67	G
7	10	67	G
8	9	60	M
9	9	60	M
10	9	60	M
11	7	47	M
12	9	60	M
13	5	33	P
14	5	33	P
15	9	60	M
16	7	47	M
17	12	80	G
18	8	53	M
19	7	47	M
20	9	60	M
21	10	67	G
22	8	53	M
23	9	60	M
24	9	60	N
25	11	73	G
26	10	67	G
27	11	73	G
28	6	40	P
29	7	47	M
30	11	73	G
31	9	60	M
32	9	60	M
33	6	40	P
34	7	47	M
35	7	47	M
36	10	67	G
37	8	53	M
38	8	53	M
N=38	330	2200	LA= M
	Mean =57.89		

Table 4. The Classification of the Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with Gerund

No	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Classification
1	81-100	0	0	Excellent
2	61-80	12	31.6	Good

3	41-60	22	57.89	Mediocre
4	21-40	4	10.51	Poor
5	0-20	0	0	Very poor

Table 4 shows that from 38 students, none of them is at the excellent level, 12 students (31.6 %) are at the *good* level, 22 students (57.89 %) are at the *mediocre* level, 4 students (10.51 %) are at the *poor* level, and none of the students is at the *very poor* level.

Table 5. The Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with to Infinitive Form.

Student	Correct answers	Score	Level of ability
1	10	67	Good
2	9	60	Mediocre
3	13	87	Excellent
4	9	60	Mediocre
5	12	80	Good
6	9	60	Mediocre
7	8	53	Mediocre
8	10	67	Good
9	6	40	Poor
10	5	33	Poor
11	9	60	Mediocre
12	9	60	Mediocre

13	7	47	Mediocre
14	9	60	Mediocre
15	5	33	Poor
16	8	53	Mediocre
17	5	33	Poor
18	9	60	Mediocre
19	7	47	Mediocre
20	7	47	Mediocre
21	7	47	Mediocre
22	5	33	Poor
23	7	47	Mediocre
24	6	40	Poor
25	2	13	Very poor
26	6	40	Poor
27	5	33	Poor
28	6	40	Poor
29	5	33	Poor
30	4	27	Poor
31	7	47	Mediocre
32	6	40	Poor
33	5	33	Poor
34	8	53	Mediocre
35	6	40	Poor
36	4	27	Poor
37	3	20	Very poor
38	1	7	Very poor

N=38	259	1727	Level of Ability: Mediocre
	Mean=45.45		

Table 6 The Classification of the Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with to Infinitive Form

No	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Classification
1	81-100	1	2.6	Excellent
2	61-80	3	7.9	Good
3	41-60	16	42	Mediocre
4	21-40	15	39.6	Poor
5	0-20	3	7.9	Very poor

Table 6 shows that from 38 students, 1 of them (2.6 %) is at the *excellent* level, 3 students (7.9 %) is at the *good* level, 16 students (42 %) are at the *mediocre* level, 15 students (39.6 %) are at the *poor* level, and 3 students (7.9 %) is at the *very poor* level.

Table 7 The Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with Present Progressive Form

Student	Correct answers	Score	Level of ability
1	9	90	Excellent
2	9	90	Excellent

3	8	80	Good
4	8	80	Good
5	6	60	Mediocre
6	5	50	Mediocre
7	6	60	Mediocre
8	4	40	Poor
9	8	80	Good
10	8	80	Good
11	6	60	Mediocre
12	3	30	Poor
13	9	90	Excellent
14	7	70	Good
15	8	80	Good
16	5	50	Mediocre
17	3	30	Poor
18	3	30	Poor
19	6	60	Mediocre
20	4	40	Poor
21	3	30	Poor
22	7	70	Good
23	4	40	Poor
24	4	40	Poor
25	6	60	Mediocre
26	2	20	Very poor
27	2	20	Very poor
28	6	60	Mediocre
29	6	60	Mediocre

30	2	20	Very poor
31	1	10	Very poor
32	1	10	Very poor
33	5	50	Mediocre
34	0	0	Very poor
35	6	60	Mediocre
36	4	40	Poor
37	3	30	Poor
38	1	10	Very poor
N=38	188	1880	Level of Ability: Mediocre
	Mean= 49.47		

Table 8

The Classification of the Students' Ability in Completing Sentences with Present Progressive Form.

No	Score	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Classification
1	81-100	3	7.9	Excellent
2	61-80	7	18.42	Good
3	41-60	11	28.95	Mediocre
4	21-40	10	26.31	Poor
5	0-20	7	18.42	Very poor

Table 8 shows us that from 38 students, 3 students (7.9%) at the *excellent* level, 7 students (18.42%)

are at the *good* level, 11 students (28.95%) are at the *mediocre* level, 10 students (26.31 %) are at the *poor* level, and 7 students (18.42%) is at the *very poor* level.

## DISCUSSION

As it has been discussed in previous chapter, the writer tried to find out the answer to the question related to the ability of the second year students of SMA YLPI perhentian marpoyan pekanbaru in completing sentences with correct verb forms. After analyzing the data, the writer found out that the students' ability is at *mediocre level*. It can be seen from the mean score of the students: **50.10**.

It also showed that the highest score obtained by the students was 75. Meanwhile, the lowest score was 32.5. The average score The error commonly occurred in selecting correct "infinitive" to complete the sentences.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

### 1. Conclusion

Based on the result of the data analysis in chapter IV, the writer makes conclusions as follows:

1. Among 38 students, none is at the *excellent* and *very poor* levels, 5



students or as many as 13% are at *good level*, 26 students or as many as 68.5% are at *mediocre level*, 7 students or as many as 18.5% are at *poor level*.

2. The mean score of the whole students in completing the sentences with correct verb forms is 50. In conclusion, the ability of the second year students of SMA YLPI Perhentian Marpoyan Pekanbaru is at *mediocre level*

3. Since the research dealt with verb forms, the writer drew conclusions for each classification of verb forms as follow:

- a. In term of gerund form, none of them is at the excellent and very poor level, 12 students or as many as 31.6 % are at the good level, 22 students nor as many as 57.89 % are at the mediocre level, 4 students or as many as 10.51 % are at the poor level.
- b. In term of to infinitive form, 1 of them or as many as 2.6 % is at the excellent level, 3 students or as many as 7.9% at the good level, 16 students or as many as 42 % are at the mediocre level, 15 students or

as many as 39.6% are at the poor level, and 3 students or as many as 7.9 % are at the very poor level.

- c. In term of progressive form, 3 students or as many as 7.9% are at the excellent level, 7 students or as many as 18.42 % are at the good level, 11 students or as many as 28.95% are at the mediocre level, 10 students or as many as 26.31 % are at the poor level, and 7 students or as many as 7.9 % are at the very poor level.

## 2. Suggestions

After doing the research on the ability of the second year students of SMA YLPI Perhentian Marpoyan Pekanbaru in completing sentences with correct verb form, the writer would like to give some suggestions as the following:

1. The English teachers should give more explanation and more exercises of the verb forms, especially gerund, to infinitive and present progressive in order to improve the students' ability in completing sentences with correct verb forms.
2. The students should motivate themselves to improve their ability in

grammar by reading or listening.

3. The students should use their spare time to practice the use of correct verb form rules either speaking or writing in daily.

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